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TOP SECRET

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GENERAL

1. Italian attitude concerning disposition of colonies--US Ambassador Dunn in Rome, in expressing his view concerning a US suggestion that Ethiopia set up a special judicial system and special immigration privileges for Italians in Eritrea, declares that far from placating Italian public opinion regarding loss of the colony, such a proposal would only heighten resentment. After pointing out that all Italians regard Asmara and Massawa in Eritrea as Italian cities, Dunn adds that Italians cannot be expected to put faith in Ethiopia's ability to administer this area when Ethiopia is unable to administer its own territory. Meanwhile, Prime Minister De Gasperi has described to Ambassador Dunn the difficulty encountered by the Italian people in reconciling the reluctance of the US to support Italian trusteeships of the former colonies with the decision of the US to include Italy in the Atlantic Pact and the European recovery program.

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